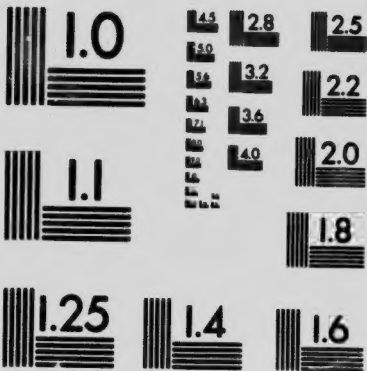




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ADDRESS *May 13*

— OF —

HON. J. R. STRATTON

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY,

TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

— ON —

The Grand Record of Progress of the Ross Government,

AS DEVELOPED BY

THE WORK OF THE SESSION OF 1901.

Delivered at Bensfort, South Monaghan, May 13th, 1901.

ADDRESS.

The hall at Bensfort, South Monaghan, was well filled on Monday evening, May 13th, with an audience of his constituents, to hear the annual after-the-session address of Hon. Mr. Stratton, representative of West Peterborough, and Provincial Secretary, on the legislative work of the session recently brought to a close. More than usual interest was manifested as this was the first address delivered in South Monaghan by Mr. Stratton on Provincial topics since his acceptance of the portfolio he now holds in the Ross Government. Mr. John Riddell presided as chairman, and the pleasing story Mr. Stratton had to tell of the splendid manner in which the Ross Government had administered Provincial affairs during their two years of office, and the record presented of the great achievements already effected, were listened to with the closest attention, and frequently punctuated with applause. Much interest was added to portions of Mr. Stratton's remarks by the use of the fine new map of Northern Ontario, just issued by the Government, to point out the indicated areas of agricultural lands in the new territory, the sites of the several forest reserves, the sites of the several pulp concessions, the routes of the several railways aided by this government, and other interesting topographical features. After a few remarks, expressive of the pleasure it afforded him to again meet his constituents, Hon. Mr. Stratton said:—

During the fifteen years I have had the honour of representing the important riding of West Peterborough it has, as you are aware, been my practice after a Session of the Legislature to appear before my constituents and give a summary of the legislative and administrative Acts of the Legislature and the Government. Circumstances have always admitted of my having a good record to present, but I am happy to say that in all the time mentioned it has never been in my power to invite your attention to a more progressive, practical and in every way gratifying record of administration and legislation than that of the Session which has just closed. The prestige of the Government has been enhanced and the material interests of the province have been promoted to a degree that must be gratifying to both. A distinctive feature of the Session was, that it was the first Session of the Ontario Legislature of the 20th Century; it was the first Session of a new reign, at the close of the longest and most glorious reign of British

history, during a third of which the affairs of the Province have practically been in the hands of a Liberal Administration. It is a pleasure to note that the record reign has been paralleled in excellent features by the record of the Provincial Government—never has a kingdom been better governed than during the sixty odd years of Queen Victoria's reign, and the affairs of a Province have never been better administered than have those of the Province of Ontario during the thirty odd years the Liberal Government has been in power. And to repeat the idea suggested a moment ago, never has there been a Session that has presented the evidence of more solid progress and stable soundness of financial conditions than the Session of 1901.

The Opening Features.

A feature of the Session was its opening, which found the chamber draped in mourning in memory of the departed Queen, and of course the first consideration was the adoption of resolutions of condolence worthy of the occasion, and in a Legislature where party feeling often runs high and where more or less acrimony of debate obtains, where there is marked difference of opinion, it was yet not at all surprising that the leaders of both sides of the House, voicing the opinions of their respective followings, were of one mind in their sentiments of loyal tribute to the virtues of the late Sovereign, to the glories of Her reign and of loyal devotion to the new Sovereign who succeeded her. On this account the debate on the address, which usually consumes a fortnight, was confined to the brief speeches of the mover and seconder and the closing addresses of the leaders.

The Sessional Programme.

The Speech from the Throne, the Sessional programme of the Government, was pitched to an aggressive note; aggressive, not in a controversial sense, but in the sense of its being expressive of the forward policy of the Ross Government, and the legislation founded upon it was quite in keeping with this character. The Public Accounts were promptly brought down and although they showed that in spite of an increase in expenditure over the previous year, due to steady development and expansion in all departments of government and to unusual expenditures—Cobourg Asylum construction, Patriotic Fund grant, exploration of northern Ontario and Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund—totaling altogether \$101,836—there was a sur-

plus of \$189,210.81 of receipts over expenditures on the current operations of the year. This was simply a forecast of the pleasant picture Hon. Premier Ross, Provincial Treasurer, had to present in his budget speech; and his showing of the present financial standing of the Province, was in keeping with the features of his interesting review of the administrative record and record of progress of the Province since Confederation, a presentation most appropriate to the first Session of a new century.

Income and Outlay.

The Premier showed that since Confederation the total revenue of the Province had been over 108 millions of dollars. The expenditure in that time had been a little over 107 millions, leaving a surplus on the operations of 34 years of over a million of dollars on the 31st of December 1901. Altogether the Government of the Province had handled in that time over 216 millions of dollars. "In regard to which" Hon. Mr. Ross truly said "there has been no loss, no scandal or no evidence of financial mismanagement whatever." No financial institution—not even the Bank of England—can show a cleaner record than that, and no Government has a better right to claim credit for such conditions than the Liberal Government of Ontario. Besides, it is to be borne in mind that of the immense sum expended, the large amount of over 80 millions of dollars has been spent on municipal and philanthropic services which relieved the people of the Province of direct taxation to that extent. (Applause).

Our Financial Standing.

The financial administration of the Province of Ontario has been of an excellence that cannot be challenged. True, the Opposition long tried to throw doubts upon the correctness of our financial position as set forth by successive Provincial Treasurers from time to time. To set at rest all doubts thus expressed and to place our financial standing upon an indubitable basis, Hon. Premier Ross, upon assuming the leadership of the Government, promised a Royal Commission to investigate and report upon our Provincial finances. That promise, like all other promises made by him at that time, was kept. The Commission was appointed, the Commission investigated, the Commission reported and that report showed that not only had all the claims made in respect of our financial standing been amply justified, but it also showed a financial standing which cannot be surpassed by any other state or country in the world. Their report demonstrated in brief that the Province has assets of \$7,535,400.90, and liabilities of \$4,954,929.43, leaving a surplus of assets of \$2,580,471.80. But of our liabilities \$3,135,070 are railway obligations, not payable at present, but the payment is spread over a period of forty years and is generally payable out of

current revenue. If we deduct this amount, not presently payable, from our liabilities it will leave our total surplus of assets at \$5,715,541. Our funded assets—apart from our cash in the bank—bring us an interest income of \$312,000 a year. The amount on which this is payable at five per cent. is \$6,237,701. Taking the value of money at 3½ per cent., the value assigned to it in calculating the obligations of the Province, the present value of this six million dollars odd of assets is the large sum of nine million dollars. (Applause). This is a financial standing of which any country might be proud, which, as I have before remarked, and it cannot be too often repeated, gives us a Province without a dollar of debt presently payable, with a million dollars of cash in the bank and with annual receipts in interest from funded investments sufficient to pay all our liabilities twice over. This condition was practically reached under previous administrations, but it is fitting in a sessional review to point out that the present Government has improved the financial position which it found on assuming office. Our assets in 1900, or at the end of 1899, were \$7,308,917.20. On December 31st. last they were \$7,535,400.70, an improvement of \$166,483.70. The cash in the bank at the credit of the Province at the close of 1899 was \$836,195.30. At the close of last year our cash credit at the bank was \$1,033,546.31. Is it not very greatly to the credit of a Liberal administration that after nearly thirty years of continued government it can meet the House and the country and show cash assets of over a million dollars. (Applause).

A Big Policy Well Carried Out.

The present Government, under the leadership of Hon. G. W. Ross, entered upon its career with an ambitious policy looking to the development of the newer portions of the Province, as well as to a more intense development of the capabilities of the longer settled portions. Speaking at Whitby in the fall of 1899, soon after he had received his mandate of government, Mr. Ross outlined the programme of action to which his Government would be committed. This included an energetic campaign of development of the resources of New Ontario, investigation as to the extent of these resources, improvement of transportation facilities both rail and highway, the promotion of mining interests and industries, the encouragement and advancement of educational interests—with a view of giving education a more practical trend—helping the farmer to better markets by cold storage, securing home manufacture of our pulpwood, and thus bringing into utility long dormant resources, and stimulating the employment of capital and labour, placing our splendid financial position upon an unquestionable basis, and other things looking to an advanced movement all along

the line of Provincial development and improvement. Generally speaking, in the short space of two years, this programme of policy has been almost literally carried out, with the result of imparting an immense stimulus to private (individual and associated) enterprise, involving the large employment of capital and labour, inciting profitable industrial and commercial activity, and at the same time vindicating the statesmanlike foresight of Hon. Premier Ross, and the energy and industry of himself and his colleagues, and strengthening public confidence in his and their administrative ability. (Applause).

Investigating Our Resources.

One of the items in the programme of administrative action is the promise made by Premier Ross to bring about a somewhat systematic exploration of New Ontario with a view of gaining some general idea of its resources as a basis for action in bringing about their developments. It is well known that at the Session of Parliament of 1900, the sum of \$40,000 was set aside and expended to provide for the exploration of New Ontario. Ten exploring parties were sent out and this Session a report of their work was laid before the House. The general result was that the explorers found an area of land suitable for agriculture nearly as large as half of Old Ontario and capable of maintaining a population of one million souls—more than sixteen million acres, or more than the whole area of Ontario under crop last year. The explorers also report the existence of pulp wood to the extent of 288 million cords, worth, at the present price fixed by the Government, over 115 million dollars. Besides there are evidences of great mineral wealth. In the time at their disposal the geologists of the several exploration parties had no adequate opportunity for investigating closely the indications of individual mineral deposits, but the same geological formations that occur in known rich mineral-bearing areas in other parts of the Province, were noted at many points and veins of gold-bearing quartz and deposits of copper, iron and other minerals of economic value were met with. The results of the exploration, while necessarily not being definite, furnish evidence to fully warrant careful prospecting for minerals with excellent chances of important discoveries. This is, apart even from the wealth of mineral deposits revealed, a provincial patrimony worth developing, and the policy of the Government has been and is still directed towards a realization of these immense stores of dormant wealth. (Applause). What has been done in this direction in the past? The first concession granted to the Clergue Syndicate in 1894 has been a forerunner and foundation of important industries and the immediate object, pulp production, has spread out in a wide and still

widening circle. The exploitation of the pulp feature extended so that railway facilities were demanded to handle the raw material, and this led to the Algoma Central Railway bargain whose far-reaching results are now familiar to almost every Ontarian.

Two Contrasting Policies.

Being far-sighted and broad, the Government saw the benefits to flow to the regions operated upon and to the country at large from the railway bargain entered upon. Being short-sighted and narrow, the Opposition failed to see these advantages and denounced the bargain in the extravagant language generally employed by Mr. Whitney, the Leader of the Opposition, going so far as to pronounce the Algoma Central Railway bargain as "public robbery." The result has been the complete vindication of the wisdom of the Government and of their enterprise in making such a bargain, and has completely justified their faith in the solid and exhaustless character of the resources of northern Ontario; and has as completely condemned the unprogressive, doubting, halting, hesitating attitude of the Opposition. In a word the operations inaugurated by the Government's bargain with the Clergue Syndicate, have called for the expenditure of nine millions of dollars already and another nine millions will have to be spent to carry out the Company's plan of operation. A score of different industrial activities has been extensively employed and the demand on Old Ontario for supplies, machinery, food-stuffs, etc., was last year a million dollars, and this year this item will be at least two million dollars. (Applause).

More Results.

The results indirectly proceeding from the granting of the first concession are by no means at an end. The effects upon the development of the mineral resources of Northern Ontario have been very marked though it seems that hardly a beginning has been made. Iron and steel are the business backbone of the world, and Ontario is destined to fill an important place in the production of these articles. We have, literally, immense deposits of iron, and our nickel deposits are perhaps the most extensive and excellent in the world. The juxtaposition and almost conjunction of these minerals gives us a great advantage. At the Sault, in addition to all the great industries at work there, the iron and steel industry is looming up largely. At present the Clergue Syndicate is building a steel plant to be finished and in operation by September capable of turning out 600 tons of steel rails per day. One thousand men are now at work upon the buildings which are 300 feet wide by 1500 feet in length—over a third of a mile. Nor is this all. Mr. Clergue says that in the fall another steel plant will be begun to have a capacity of 2,000 tons per day, or

the two will have a combined capacity of 2,000 tons of steel rails per day, more than double the capacity of the great steel works at Sydney, Cape Breton, which is 1,300 tons per day. The day, if not at hand, is not far distant, when Ontario will be independent of the world for a supply of iron and steel as well as of all other economic and precious metal. (Applause).

Other Pulp Concessions.

Such important and far-reaching results from the first concession have in part followed from the subsequent concessions. The occurrence of unfortunate litigation has prevented the development that was expected at Sturgeon Falls, but the Spanish River Company is actively engaged in developing its concessions. Contracts have been entered into, as a beginning, for machinery and buildings the large amount of \$500,000, and orders have been placed with one exception with Ontario manufacturing establishments, one contract for pulp grinders to the amount of \$25,000, going to the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company, Peterborough, and they could have accepted much larger orders, had they not been too busy with other work to supply the orders in time. Thus, from the action of the Government, we have development of the resources of the new country and material benefits to the industries of the older portions of Ontario.

Another Advance Step.

Encouraged by the results of the Sault Ste. Marie and other pulp concessions in other portions of Ontario, and in pursuance of their policy of development, the Government with the concurrence of the Legislature, at the last session, entered into an agreement with the Keewatin Power Company, which has constructed a water power at Tunnel Island, Lake of the Woods. The chief features of the agreement—the conditions of the concession—bind the company to expend at least \$1,500,000 in the construction of pulpwood plant, etc. Of this sum \$500,000 is to be expended within one year from April 4th 1901, \$500,000 within two years, and the balance within three years. This million and a half is in addition to the \$500,000 already expended by the Company in developing water power, etc., making a total of \$2,000,000. The Government also reserves the right to sell the pine timber on any land granted under the agreement, and no right is given the Keewatin Power Company to cut pine. If within three years from April 4th, 1901, the Company shall not have expended \$1,500,000 in erecting pulp and paper mills and other necessary plant, and providing the equipment necessary for the actual operations of the mills, the agreement shall become null and void, and provision is made for enforcing under penalty the employment of the stipulated number of hands (500) and the production of the

specified quantity of pulp and paper. The Company is bound to manufacture every year an annual output in pulp and paper of 40,000 tons, and to employ continuously an average of 500 hands. In return the Government grants the right for a period of twenty-one years, to cut along, and within five miles of, the rivers and streams tributary to the Lake of the Woods, except Rainy River, on unoccupied lands, pulpwood sufficient for the operation of the mills to their full capacity. The company is required to pay 40 cents per cord for all spruce pulpwood and ten cents per cord for other woods, the price to be advanced, if the market warrants it, at the option of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and the Government may impose conditions regarding cutting. The agreement gives the Company no rights in the lands, and no monopoly, only the privilege to cut, and no pulpwoods shall be cut for export in the log. In every way the interests of the Province are protected, as well as promoted, by the terms of the agreement and capital is encouraged to render productive resources that have for centuries been useless and idle. (Applause). The Keewatin concession is in the westernmost part of New Ontario, and previous pulp concessions are so distributed as to form centres of development that will, in expanding, affect the whole of the southern part of New Ontario. On the extreme east we have the Blanche River Pulp Company, next west the Sturgeon Falls, then the Spanish River, and proceeding westward the Sault Ste. Marie, the Nepigon and lastly the Keewatin Power Company at Rat Portage in almost the western limit of New Ontario.

Blind Opposition.

When one considers the great extent of development and industrial activity proceeding from the first pulp concession and the humiliating rebuff thus given to the intemperate denunciation by the Opposition of the allied enterprise, the Algoma Central Railway, it would be thought that considerations of self-respect, if not patriotic consideration for the benefit and advancement of the Province, would have taught the Opposition wisdom, or at least caution, in indulging in blind partisan criticism of another pulp concession entered into by the Government, whose terms are more favourable to the Province than other concessions the Opposition tacitly accepted. Mr. Whitney, the leader of the Opposition, only one short year ago, from his place in the House denounced the Algoma Central bargain as a "gigantic steal." Still this year so great and convincing has been the success of the Algoma Central contract, that he and his righthand lieutenant, Mr. Matheson, were constrained by the logic of success to support a much larger contract—the Manitoulin & North Shore Railway Bill. Yet Mr. Matheson, speaking for the

Opposition, denounced the concession to the Keewatin Pulp Company, whose conditions I have just referred to, as an "outrageous and criminal" proposal. This retrograde action on the part of the Opposition was so hostile to the true interests of the Province, so unpatriotically obstructive, that Mr. G. F. Marter, North T. M. P., a prominent and able member of the Opposition, and formerly leader of the Conservative party in Provincial politics, who has, as I can testify, been a thorough-going and faithful supporter of the Conservative party for fifteen years—he having entered the Legislature the same year as myself—that Mr. Marter was compelled to break with his party and support the advance development policy of the Government, which he did when he voted with the Government on the Keewatin Pulp Concession. He had voted, he said, with his party against the Spanish River Concession, but he did this as a party man and against his own convictions. He had tried to bring his fellow Conservatives to his own way of thinking, but failing in this he had concluded not to bind himself down to party lines contrary to the interests of the Province, which were he declared, represented in this matter by the forward policy of the Government. This defection of Mr. Marter derives its chief importance from the fact that it shows that the development policy of the Ross Government is in the interests of the country, and that the policy of the Opposition is a stagnant, stagnating policy which has driven its ranks one of its most prominent members, who is too honest a politician and too good a patriot to place party interests before the interests of his Province. (Applause).

The Conservative Press Also.

Not only has Mr. Marter practically condemned the retrograde policy of the Conservative Opposition, but candour compels the Toronto "News", a thorough-paced Conservative journal to applaud his action and incidentally condemn the Opposition, which, for party reasons, it in the main cordially supports.

In its issue of April 15th, the News has the following:—

"The rapid progress that has been made in the new territory since the Clergue Company, and the two or three other corporations established there began operations, in our judgment justifies the stand Mr. Marter has taken, and proves that he has a clearer understanding of the needs of North Ontario than the other members of his own side who oppose such concessions as those made to the Keewatin Company. It is possible the concessions in this case are more generous than any that have been made previously, but we must remember that there was considerable opposition to those also on the same grounds, yet no

one will say now that the Province did not act wisely in giving Mr. Clergue and others engaged in developing the north country every privilege or grant they received. It is only by a policy of generous concessions that we can bring into full use the immense wealth that is lying locked up in that country. The region is of immense size, and the value of its products almost incalculable, but that value can only be realized through manufacture. It is not a poor man's country, and we venture to say that unless its brought about by great capital it will remain for ages almost the same wilderness it is to-day. Mr. Marter knows this, and as a good citizen he is compelled for once to turn his back on his party. He deserves all the more honour for his independence and public spirit, and Liberals, as well as Conservatives, instead of misrepresenting his motives, would do well to remember his example when their conscience is divided between their loyalty to party and their duty to the public."

Development Railways.

Another item in the development policy of the Government of main importance, was the subsidizing by land grant of the Manitoulin & North Shore Railway, a complement to and practically a continuation of the Algoma Central Railway scheme of development, with the additional feature of facilitating transportation and placing Older Ontario in direct communication with the traffic resources of New Ontario, which stand to be developed by the construction and operation of the northern portions of the line. This road will run from Meaford in Grey County northward through Owen Sound, Wiarton and the Bruce Peninsula, and thence across Manitoulin Island (giving an outlet to the produce of this rich grazing region) into Algoma and northward to Trill township. A spur eastward will connect with Sudbury and the road will continue west from Trill to Michipicoten a distance of 100 miles. The building of this line will open up millions of acres of mineral, timber and agricultural lands, heretofore useless and unproductive, and bring them and the traffic resulting from their development into direct communication with the commercial and industrial centres of Older Ontario. Connecting with the C.P.R. at Owen Sound the north country served by this line will have daily communication with the south, and connecting with the G.T.R. at Wiarton and Meaford, brings the whole northwest in communication with the Grand Trunk system both east and west, connecting Peterborough, by way of the Midland, with all this area. Thus is afforded cheap and direct transportation to the manufacturers and producers of all Ontario with the Northwest. It will shorten the distance from the north to Toronto by about eighty miles;

and this short route is guaranteed to all systems, for one of the conditions of the grant is that the road shall give running powers to all other lines, and the Government has control of the right of way and the freight and passenger traffic rates. Another condition is that the Company shall construct a 300 ton (daily) public smelter in the Sudbury mining district to be finished within two years. This will stimulate the mining industry, for small prospectors are at present at the mercy of large companies, and by the erection of a public smelter they can count upon the ores they may mine being smelted at fair advantage. Besides, the line will tap a rich region of nickel lands at present inaccessible. Another condition is that the Company must place 1,000 settlers a year for 10 years, and in addition to control of rates and right of way, the Government reserves the right to purchase the line at the end of fifteen years. It is simply impossible to estimate the immense advantages that will result from the construction of this line on the terms named. Much as the Algoma Central contract has led us to expect from the work already accomplished there are reasons to believe that even greater results will flow from the building of this line. It will not only aid in developing the new territory but will give Older Ontario, not only the direct benefits resulting for this development but also the advantage of director touch with the benefits of the industries connected with the building and operation of the Algoma Central Railway.

Other Colonization Railways.

During the present Session aid was granted by way of subsidy to other colonization and development railway lines. The Bracebridge and Trading Lake railway receives a subsidy of \$48,000—\$3,000 per mile for 16 miles. The Bruce Mines & Algoma Railway, running from these mines to the Rock Lake Copper mine was granted a cash subsidy of \$3,000 for thirteen miles. This grant has had immediate results in giving a moral stimulus to an existing industry that of the Rock Mine Company which has spent considerable money on the rich Rock Lake Copper district deposits, and the building of this road means further development, large employment of labour and the inevitable encouragement of agricultural settlement. A subsidy of \$3,000 per mile for 25 miles was granted a railway from Bolton Creek in Oso township, County of Frontenac to the iron mines in Lanark township, in Lanark County, and \$10,000 was granted to extend the Grand Trunk from Burke's Falls to Magnetawan. Then the Port Arthur and St. Joe Railway was subsidized by cash and land grant and a subsidy of \$3,000 per mile for 25 miles was granted to the Norwood and Apsley Railway, a line which will open up to operation important mining properties and give the

settlers in the northern districts an outlet to the front for their produce, making the conditions of pioneer life less lonely and undesirable. The Government, while equal to enterprises and undertakings of great magnitude, is not forgetful of the rights and claims of the people where the interests involved may be smaller but not less important to those directly concerned. In granting aid to these railways the Government has provided for the observance of the motto "Ontario for Ontarians." It is stipulated that every railway must, as a condition of aid, use, in the construction of railways, rails manufactured in Ontario, provided such rails can be procured in Ontario and if not in Ontario in the Dominion, at a price not greater than the open market price in Great Britain or the United States, and the same condition applies to railway supplies and rolling stock—they must be of Canadian manufacture. Persons employed in building such railways shall not be overcharged for food or supplies by contractors, sanitary regulations shall be provided in construction camps, and such roads as to carry, at the request of any municipality, road making material, gravel, stone, etc., at actual cost. The Government reserves the right to acquire any of these lines, by arbitration or otherwise, and altogether, so far as provision can be made, public rights are fully protected.

The Parties Again in Contrast.

In its railway policy as developed last session and the session before, the Ross Government has struck out boldly. It had faith in New Ontario when it subsidized by land grant the Algoma Central Railway, and the result has more than justified its wisdom, courage and foresight. The Opposition has a lack of faith in New Ontario. They could not see ahead and severely condemned the bargain with the Algoma Central Railway, Mr. Whitney going so far as to call the grant "colossal robbery," but the results that have followed this grant have astounded him, and although he has not had the courage to take back his violent and ill-judged denunciation of this enterprise, he has had the wisdom not to repeat his blunder, and has offered no opposition to the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway, though the concessions are greater than those to the road so vigorously condemned. Nothing succeeds like success, and the phenomenal success of the bold aggressive policy of the Ross Government disarms criticism and elicits the admiration and sympathy of all who at heart desire the progress and advancement of this progressive and advancing Province. (Applause).

A New Departure.

The enterprise of the Government is not limited to bringing about merely material development, but it has taken steps to crystallize into action public sentiment in regard to Government ownership and con-

struction of railways, which has of late been considerably in evidence, and at the same time to bring into touch with commercial conditions the dormant resources of the northern part of the Province. The opening up of the rich agricultural lands to the west of Lake Temiscamingue to settlement, is a problem which the Ross Government has attacked in earnest and in a new way. Nothing has been done in respect of giving effect to several railway charters, aided by grants of money and land to open up this territory, and now the Government proposes to take the matter into its own hands. In the Supplementary Estimates for this year, the sum of \$10,000 was placed for surveys of the proposed line from both Mattawa and North Bay northward, a distance of 106 miles. This line, which is estimated to cost about \$1,750,000, will tap a very rich agricultural country, and give the great bulk of the resulting trade to Ontario, where it belongs, instead of permitting it to be diverted, of which there is at present some danger, entirely eastward and largely out of the Province. The line alone, which this line will open to the market, is worth five times the cost of the road, and the people of Ontario will have the markets of the new country. Once the road is built by the Government, as soon as settlement proceeds, and demand for supplies arises, it is confidently believed to be possible to lease the road for a sufficient sum to pay the cost of construction, the Government retaining control over transportation rates. This railway, once in operation, will permit of easier settlement of the country, which settlement will create a demand and "have an effect that will be felt upon all our industries, our factories, our packing houses, and every form of trade, wholesale or retail," and this in itself will be ample compensation in this regard for the expenditure necessary to construct and own this line. In inaugurating and adopting this course, the Ross Government becomes in fact the pioneer in Government construction and ownership of railways, as it has led the way in originating perhaps the most aggressive and enterprising policy of development of our Provincial resources ever applied to any country, especially in the short space of time it has been charged with the responsibility of promoting the Provincial interests. (Applause).

Aiding Our Mining Industries.

It needs no elaborate arguments to prove the extent and importance of the mining industry of Ontario. The problem that confronted the Government was that of creating, or helping to create the conditions that would make for the largest development and secure to Ontario the largest measure of advantage. Generally speaking, the chief need in accomplishing this end is capital, but there are details, which naturally dovetail in with capital,

to be worked out. We need engineering skill and scientifically trained persons to help capital accomplish its work, and that skill must be Canadian and preferably of Ontario, and means must be employed to develop that trained skill among our own citizens. Our Provincial University bears a most important relation, as much, in one sense, to our material, as to our intellectual, progress. While its chief function in the past has been to train teachers for our High Schools, to in turn train teachers for our Public Schools, to fit our people for places in the ranks of our professional classes, and to exercise a directing and formative influence upon national culture, it is recognized by the Government and by the head of our Education Department, that our Provincial University must do its share, and a large share it can do, in promoting the material development of the country. In an able address on the second reading of the Bill respecting the University of Toronto, Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Minister of Education, pointed out the necessity of equipping the University with facilities for supplying the demand for expert knowledge in engineering and manufacturing. We had, he said, great natural resources, and we should go forward and take steps to extend the facilities for scientific training. The recent developments in the iron and steel trade in Canada had furnished an additional reason for equipping young men in those sciences which would enable them to take their part in the great industrial development which might be expected to result in the near future. We had great hydraulic powers, and we needed hydraulic engineers. We had immense mining resources and we needed mining engineers trained in a Provincial and not in a foreign University. To meet the demand for University aid, the Government decided to furnish this aid by taking upon itself the burden of supporting the scientific department. In the University Act of 1901, "for the purpose of encouraging the study of the mineral and other natural resources of the Province, and for supplying the demand for expert knowledge in engineering and manufactures," the Province is empowered to pay the salaries of all professors, lecturers and of other instruction in the department of chemistry, physics, mineralogy and geology, and the cost of the maintenance of these departments; the act also sets apart a site on College street in the City of Toronto for the departments of mineralogy and geology in connection with the university, and, for the extension of the school of Practical Science, the Government has decided to erect a substantial, new, up-to-date building in harmony with the other university buildings, to cost from \$175,000 to \$200,000, and in the supplementary estimates of the year is found a vote of \$50,000 towards this building. An Act was also passed granting to the School of Mining, Kingston, the sum of \$22,500 per

year for five years. Thus practical aid has been given in the work of training our boys to enable them to take part in developing the natural resources of the Province and in removing the necessity of their receiving this training at foreign schools or of importing trained men to do the work which our own citizens will hereafter be trained at home, to do. (Applause).

Older Ontario Not Forgotten.

While the Government and Legislature have shown great solicitude for improving New Ontario and in the process incidentally helping the older portion of the Province, the latter has been specifically looked after. In fulfilment of a promise made, Hon. Premier Ross introduced a bill which at the last session was passed into law, appropriating a million dollars of Provincial funds to aid the improvement of the public roads of the Province.

To Help Build County Highways.

The Act provides that before the 1st of January, 1903, the highways to be improved under a system of county roads in any county may be designated by by-law of the County Council; a copy of this by-law is to be sent to township clerks; and within three months from receipt of notice, township councils shall report to the county clerk their approval or disapproval of the roads so designated. If, on the receipt of the reports from the several townships, it shall appear that one-third of the townships oppose the road selected as the portion of the highway to be improved, then the roads to be improved in such townships shall be decided upon by arbitration, according to the provisions of the Municipal Act. In the event of more than one-third of the townships in any county disapproving of the roads designated by the County Council, the latter body shall submit by by-law to the people the question: "Are you in favour of a county road system?" If the vote is favourable, the roads to be designated in any objecting township shall be determined by arbitration. Before the final passage of a by-law setting apart roads to be improved, the County Council may submit it for approval of the ratepayers of the county qualified to vote on money by-laws. In case the county by-law fails to carry, or the county fails to take action in regard to county highways, then before Jan. 1st, 1904, any Township Council may by by-law set apart roads to be improved, subject to the vote of the ratepayers. Any municipality may apply the whole or the part of the money it may be entitled to under the Act for the purchase of toll roads or for freeing them from tolls; any highway built under the Act to entitle it to a share of the Provincial fund must be constructed according to the regulations of the Public Works Department respecting highways, and the County's share (one third of

the total cost, but not to exceed its proportion under the Act) of the Provincial road fund, will be paid on receipt by the Public Works Department of a report to the effect (certified by a competent engineer) that these regulations have been complied with, and, subject to the approval of the proper officer of the Public Works Department. The sum any County shall be entitled to under the Act shall be in proportion to the assessed area of the County but shall not exceed the proportion it is entitled to under the Act. Municipalities may raise by twenty-year debentures the money required for its share of the cost of highways. The statute labour on the roads improved under the Act shall be commuted and applied to the improvement of other highways in the township as the Council may direct. Complementary to this Act, an Act was passed to facilitate the acquirement of toll roads by municipalities. This is a very important measure, for to the average farmer good highways are in one sense more important than railways, for, without good highways, the farmer cannot get easy access with his produce to the railway. The Province has spent millions on railways and some municipalities have burdened themselves heavily to help railways; and if as liberal bonuses had been devoted to the construction of highways the results would doubtless have been in many cases more satisfactory. The Liberal Government has managed our finances so that this million dollars is available to help municipalities build good roads. If it is taken advantage of the result will be the expenditure of three million dollars, (the Provincial contribution being one-third of the cost), in improving the highways of the Province, which represents at an average cost of a thousand dollars per mile over the Province, the construction of 3,000 miles of first class highway, or about 65 miles to each county. The success of this legislation will be much assisted by the action of the Government in having established a Good Roads Department, and appointing an efficient Commissioner whose work has done a great deal in arousing a healthy public sentiment in favour of improved highways.

The Beet Root Sugar Business.

In addition to helping the farmer by improved roads to reach the market, the Government has helped to provide a new source of market supply. Last year the Government distributed seed with a view of testing the suitability of Ontario soil for the growth of sugar beets, and the results were very satisfactory. They showed that the average yield was 18 tons per acre, of a value, at \$4.00 per ton, of \$72.00. The average cost of growing was \$23.70 per acre, leaving a net profit of \$48.30. It was thus demonstrated beyond doubt that we could grow large yields of sugar beets of high sugar percentage. The problem

was to find a market which would encourage farmers to enter upon the culture of beets, to a commercial extent. This the bill passed last Session provides. The sum of \$225,000 is set apart as a special fund "for the purpose of encouraging the growth of sugar beets and the establishment of factories for the manufacture of refined sugar therefrom." In case a factory is established for the production of sugar from beets it shall be entitled from the above funds to a bounty of one-half per cent. per pound for all sugar of "first-class marketable quality" produced for the first and second years and one quarter of a cent per pound for the third year, and nothing thereafter. No more than \$75,000 in any one year shall be paid out of the fund, and in case the total amount of bounty claimed exceeds this sum it shall be divided pro rata among applicants entitled to it. The conditions upon which this bounty is to be paid, in addition to making pure sugar, are that a factory the first year must pay at least \$4 per ton for beets delivered under contract, irrespective of the sugar quality of such beets. During the second and third years the factories, to entitle them to claim the bounty must pay for all beets grown according to contract, 33½ cents per ton for every one per cent. of sugar value, that is, for beets of 12 per cent. sugar contents, \$4 per ton will be paid, and for beets of 15 per cent. \$5 per ton will be paid. As the tests made showed a high per centage of sugar purity, the farmer is assured of a good price for a crop that will produce five or six times as large a profit per acre as wheat. (Applause.) On the motion for the third reading of the bill Mr. Boyd of North Grey, on behalf of the Opposition, evidently for the sake of political capital, for it was not necessarily in the interest of the farmer, moved an amendment expressing regret that no provision was made in the bill for a bonus to the farmer for each ton of beets raised. On this amendment Mr. Marter, the former Leader of the Opposition, again separated himself from his political friends and voted with the Government. It was pointed out that the bonus was inadvisable, inasmuch as the farmers get a profitable market for a new crop which was in itself a bonus, and that if a bounty were given in this case for the growth of beets, it could not be consistently refused for any other crop. The farmer wanted no capital to grow beets, while a factory costs about half a million dollars, and ran its risk of getting a sufficient supply of beets to make its operation profitable. By encouraging a factory with a bonus, a good market is provided the farmer whose profits will come from the beets sold.

Land Grants to Volunteers.

Not satisfied with merely oratorical recognition of those who served their country and Queen in helping defend the country at the time of its invasion in 1866,

and of those who helped to maintain the integrity of the Empire by service in South Africa, the Government introduced and passed at the last session an Act to confer land grants on those citizens of the Queen domiciled in Ontario—who enlisted for service in South Africa; the next of kin of such persons since deceased—any person who served in the same campaign as chaplain, nurse, newspaper correspondent, Red Cross attendant—persons who were members of the Volunteer Force who were in active service in the defence of the frontier in 1865, 1866 or 1870—the next of kin of any of these persons, who within six months of the termination of their services died of wounds, exposure or illness from such service—persons resident of Ontario, members of the Company known as the Chicago volunteers, who came to Ontario in 1866 to serve in the defence of the Province,—and lastly persons residing in Ontario who were engaged in the Imperial service in the defence of the Province in 1866. The Act authorizes the Commissioner of Crown Lands to set apart certain lands for the location of the above classes, who, upon satisfactory proof of service, shall be entitled to be located for 160 acres of land for each person. These lands shall be exempt from all settlement duties and taxes (except school) for ten years, and shall not be subject to any writ of attachment, execution or garnishee, and, to promote settlement, only one location per square mile shall be allowed under the Act. The pine timber and minerals on such lands shall be subject to the Public Lands Act and the Mines Act respectively.

I have already dealt more or less specifically with the more important legislation of the past Session, but there are other Acts which, though of minor importance, show that every department of the public interest receives legislative attention.

Educational Legislation.

The Act respecting the Education Department was consolidated and one or two amendments made, one of which was to empower the Education Department to make regulations for affiliating with the Normal College or Normal Schools, such High Schools or Collegiate Institutes or Public Schools as may be necessary for practical instruction in the art of teaching. Acts were also passed to consolidate the Acts relating respectively to Public and High Schools, and to include the amendments placed on the statute book since the revision of 1897. This applies especially to the Public School Act. In the High School Act there are some few changes made, but of minor importance.

Voters' List Act Amended.

The Ontario Voters List Act was amended by adding a subsection to Section 14, providing that anyone who will be of the

full age of twenty one years within thirty days of the date fixed for hearing appeals to the County Judge, and who possesses the other necessary qualifications, has the right to be entered on the Voters Lists as entitled to vote at municipal elections and elections for the Legislative Assembly.

Sanitation in Unorganised Districts.

An Act was passed to provide for sanitary regulations for those parts of the Province which are without municipal organization. It provides that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations respecting the conditions upon which any industry may be carried on in order to prevent nuisance; respecting the outbreak or spread of disease; for the cleansing, ventilation and inspection of lumbering, mining and railway construction camps; for the inspection of houses and premises, and providing for the employment of qualified physicians by employers of labour in such camps, and the erection of permanent or temporary hospitals. These regulations may be generally applicable, or may be applicable to particular localities or industries. The expense of carrying out these regulations shall be apportioned by the Minister in charge of the Provincial Board of Health and shall be paid by the corporations or persons whose duty it is to carry out such regulations. Especial necessity for this legislation arose from the fact that in many camps where a large number of men are congregated these camps were so situated that the lakes below them, which supplied the water for drinking and culinary purposes, were polluted by the refuse and offal of the camp and much sickness was likely to break out, conditions which indicated the necessity for providing proper sanitary regulations, to protect the health and lives of those working in these camps.

Ontario Companies Act.

The Ontario Companies Act was amended by adding to Section 40 a clause permitting companies to hold general meetings for the election of officers outside of the Province if authorized by special Act or Supplementary Letters Patent. Another amendment makes it unnecessary to pass a by-law to authorize purchase of stock in another Company if the special Act, Letters Patent or Supplementary Letters Patent authorize such purchase. Section 1 of the Act of 1900 is repealed by a section providing that the name of a Company which for three years defaults in respect of returns prescribed by the Act, may be given in whole or in part to a new Company, unless the defaulting Company after three weeks' notice by the Provincial Secretary furnishes satisfactory proof that it is a valid and subsisting corporation. Failure to furnish such proofs within one month after notice shall be deemed evidence of the demise of the Company. The

fee for filing the annual returns of extra provincial corporations is fixed at \$5 for companies with a capital stock of \$100,000, and \$10 for a capital stock exceeding that amount.

Summary Convictions.

The Summary Convictions Act is amended by making it clear that Subsection 1 of Section 2 includes and makes applicable to convictions under this Section, the provisions of Sections 889-896, both inclusives of the Criminal Code, 1892. It also provides for security for costs by an appellant to quash a conviction. The Statute George II, 19 is repealed.

Street Railway Act.

The Act of 1900 is amended by substituting for the section requiring the use of fenders, a section providing that Companies may use fenders which may be selected by themselves subject to approval by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council on the report of the Engineer of the Public Works Department, and shall be compelled to use such fenders within the time fixed by such Order-in-Council. The engineer in making his report shall have due regard to the efficiency of the fenders to be approved of for life-saving purposes. The Act also fixes a penalty of \$10 for every day on which cars shall be run without such fenders, except in case of accident or unavoidable necessity.

For the Reception of Royalty.

Mr. Graham of Brockville introduced a bill which was passed authorizing any municipality to include in its estimates, and to expend such sum as may be deemed prudent, in giving a fitting reception to Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall on the occasion of their expected visit to this country. The Act makes valid such expenditures and will doubtless be largely taken advantage of to extend a becoming and loyal welcome to the Heir Apparent of the Throne, such as was given the reigning monarch on the occasion of his visit to Canada in 1860.

Trustee Investment Act.

An amendment to the Trustee Investment Act permits trustees, subject to the usual conditions, to invest funds in Companies whose stock has a market value of not less than 7 per cent. premium and whose paid-up capital stock is \$400,000, instead of 25 per cent. and \$500,000 respectively as heretofore provided.

Election Act Amendment.

The Act founded on the bill of Hon. Mr. Gibson to amend the Ontario Election Act provides that any person "who procures an appointment as Deputy Returning Officer by false pretences, deceit or other improper means, or who acts without lawful authority" shall be guilty of personation and shall be liable to a

penalty of \$20 and imprisonment for not more than six months. It further provides that "Any Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk who willfully miscounts the ballots or otherwise makes up a false statement of the result of an election shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a penalty of \$200."

Agriculture and Arts.

The Agriculture and Arts Act is amended by striking out the clause of the Act limiting the amounts of the Legislative grant to be paid to the Societies of North and South Muskoka.

Land Titles.

The Land Titles Act is amended, the chief provision being that in case of fraudulent entries of ownership or encumbrances the Master in Chancery shall have power on the application of the rightful owner to have the same cancelled.

Municipal Arbitrators.

The Amendment to the Municipal Arbitrations Act provides that when any municipality by bylaw declares its desire to be brought within the provisions of the Act, an official arbitrator shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and shall exercise in respect of such a municipality all the powers of the official arbitrator under the Act.

Industrial Schools Act.

A section was added to the Act relating to Industrial Schools, providing that when any municipality has been ordered to pay any sum towards the maintenance of a child in an Industrial School, the local Judge of the Division Court may, on demand of the corporation, make an order for the payment, by the parent, stepfather or guardian of the sums which the corporation is liable to pay for the maintenance of the child.

Making Factories' Act More Clear.

The Factories' Act is improved by making it clear that the conveniences required to be provided such as lavatories, etc., etc. shall be provided by the owner of the factory, and an amendment of sub-section 5 is added requiring that the owner of a factory who fails to provide certain conveniences after two months' notice by the Inspector shall be deemed guilty of a contravention of these provisions and shall be liable to the fine prescribed—\$500—or 12 months imprisonment. This is a measure for affording still more ample protection to those employed in factories. Other amendments require inflammable material to be stored in a building separate from the factory occupied by operatives, that every steam boiler shall be insured in some duly authorized inspection company, and that the provision of satisfactory and sufficient fire escapes on all factory buildings over two stories in height shall be made. A further amendment requires

that no owner of a factory shall put it into operation without having received a permit from the Inspector.

The Drainage Act.

The Municipal Drainage Act is amended by providing that the order of the referee upon an appeal (Sec. 71) shall be subject to appeal to the Court of Appeal, whose decision shall be final. Another amendment declares that all applications affecting drainage works shall be made heard and tried by the referee only and service of notice of claim shall be filed with the County Clerk.

Assessment Act Amended.

An Act was passed to amend the Assessment Act, meeting the "Scrap Iron Assessment" difficulty. The clause that is largely operative to this end is as follows:—

"Real property belonging to or in the possession of any person or incorporated Company, and extending over more than one ward in any city or town, or situate in any township, may be assessed together in any one of such wards at the option of the assessor, or the assessment of the property may be apportioned amongst two or more of such wards in such manner as he may deem convenient, and in either case the property shall be valued as a whole or as an integral part of the whole."

Another clause provides that the portion of an International bridge (for instance, the bridge over the Niagara River at Queenston) lying in Ontario, is liable to an assessment as an integral part of the whole and on the basis of the whole. Cognate to the object of the above Act is the amendment to the Supplementary Revenue Act of 1899. This repeals the so-called "Scrap Iron" Assessment provision and also makes it clear that Mutual Insurance Companies are not municipally assessable under the Act. A bill to amend the Assessment Act on the basis suggested by the Assessment Commission was withdrawn. Discussion showed that the bill had features which might give a great deal of trouble and respecting which there was considerable difference of opinion. In view of there not being time during the Session to deal, with sufficient deliberation, with the matter, it was considered wise to let it stand, and when the Assessment Commission shall have brought down their full report, a subject of so much importance can be discussed at another Session fully and intelligently in the light of that report will throw upon it. The House will have before them a complete bill dealing with the whole field of Assessment, personal property, income, realty, franchise, etc.

Auditing Public Accounts.

The Act relating to the auditing of Public Accounts is amended by adding a section requiring that there shall be in the

office of the Provincial Auditor a Chief Clerk, who shall at all times act for the Auditor in the latter's absence.

The Fisheries Act.

The Ontario Fisheries Act passed last year was amended chiefly by making clear the terms of the several provisions and some minor amendments and changes were made. One of interest to sportsmen is the repeal of the clause limiting the catch of bass, pickerel and maskinonge in leased waters and substituting a clause providing that excessive or wasteful fishing or fishing out of season shall involve the cancellation of the lease covering the waters on which such fishing takes place. Sections 47 to 50, relating to the number, size and weight of fish which may be taken, are repealed.

Registry Act Amendment.

This Act was amended by adding a section empowering the Inspector to authorize the Registrar in writing to expend a portion of the fees in providing fireproof or metal fittings for vaults, and another section enables the Crown to bear part of the expense of making plans of towns or villages, where the land was not subdivided into lots at the time it was granted by the Crown.

To Amend the Statute Law.

An Act to amend the Statute Law provides a series of amendments and additions, touching a large variety of subjects, many of which are of merely technical importance. Among the chief changes is a provision, including Deseronto and Sault Ste. Marie, under the provisions of the Manhood Suffrage Registration Act, and providing for the constitution of Registration Boards for these places; another fixing the fees payable in Surrogate Clerk's Office; another providing that an appeal may lie from a judgment or decision of a Court of General Sessions allowing or dismissing an appeal thereto under the Summary Convictions Act, to the Court of Appeal without giving any security in the appeal to the latter Court, at the discretion of the Attorney General. An amendment to the Master and Servants Act provides a penalty not exceeding \$25 for workmen leaving employment before re-paying advances made by employers—railway fare, money, food, lodging, etc. Another amendment allows a salaried collector to collect lawful costs in proceedings. An important provision is made to define the limits of Sanatoria for Consumptives, requiring that such buildings shall not be established or maintained within 150 yards of any dwelling without the consent of owner or occupant of adjacent property affected. Another amendment authorises the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, with the consent of trustees of Toronto University to sell to the City of Toronto the property known as the Upper Canada College

Block in that city for a sum not less than \$250,000. It is also provided that in mining suits where action is brought in Ontario on a judgment obtained elsewhere, the defendant may set up the same defence as in the original action. There are several minor amendments not of very great public interest.

Succession Duties Act.

The Act to amend the Succession Duties Act provides that only bona fide debts are to be deducted in ascertaining the value of an estate, and it also includes in the preferred class of beneficiaries, grandchildren, adopted children and children to whom deceased has stood for ten years in the acknowledged relation of parent. The amended Act also makes it clear that all estates in Ontario shall pay the duties whether the deceased owner has or has not been a resident of the Province.

Shop Regulation Act.

This is amended by providing a penalty of not over \$500 or 12 months imprisonment in any case where an owner of any shop shall neglect or fail, within two months after receiving written notice, to provide the conveniences required by the Act. No employee of a bake shop shall be permitted to work on Sunday, nor for more than twelve hours out of twenty-four, nor more than 60 hours in one week, except by permission of the Inspector in writing, which writing shall be displayed in the shop. No employer shall permit an employee in any barber shop to work on Sunday and no employer shall allow to be opened his barber shop on Sunday without incurring a penalty of \$50.

The University Act.

The Act respecting the University of Toronto and University College is to some extent a consolidation, but contains several new features. It creates a Board of Trustees as a body corporate in which all property owned by or held on behalf of the University, including the former site of Upper Canada College, shall be vested. The Trustees are given power to appoint or remove bursars and all other officers or servants of the University and University College employed on the premises or grounds, and shall have control of the property assets, income and revenue and have power to invest funds. As before stated, the Government is empowered by this Act in order to encourage the study of the mineral and other natural resources of the Province, to bear the expense of all instruction in chemistry, physics, mineralogy and geology, and the Act sets apart lands on College street, Toronto, as a site for a Science Building to cost about \$200,000. The act confirms existing federation and declares the following Institution to be affiliated with the University:—Trinity Medical School, Toronto School of Medicine, Albert College, Ontario Agri-

cultural College, Royal College of Dental Surgeons, School of Practical Science, Toronto College of Music, Women's Medical College, Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto Conservatory of Music, Ontario Veterinary College. An amendment permits every federated College to appoint two members to the Senate and every federated University, the Law Society, Upper Canada College, one member each in addition to the representatives of the faculty. An added section creates a University Council which deals with the discipline of students, arranges time tables, lectures, etc., etc. Another empowers Trinity University to negotiate federation.

The Municipal Act.

The Act to amend the Municipal Act contains more or less important changes to meet conditions that have arisen and such as experience has demonstrated to be desirable. These amendments include a provision for the separation of farm lands from villages and towns, for fixing the mode of procedure and the financial responsibility in respect of such a reduction of area. Another amendment permits the Councils of towns where Aldermen have been elected by general vote for two years to submit to popular vote by bylaw at the Municipal elections the question of a return to the Ward system. It is also provided that there shall be separate ballot papers for Mayor and Aldermen in towns where they are elected by general vote, and every elector shall be entitled to only one vote for mayor and one for each alderman to be elected. In case of the death of an alderman in a city where election is by general vote, the unsuccessful candidate who received the highest number of votes at the last election shall be entitled to the vacant seat. The council of any municipality may by by-law authorize the chief of police or other designated officer to order the stopping of any immoral play or performance and in case his orders are not obeyed he has power to arrest offenders without warrant. Another amendment permits municipalities to pass by-laws to prohibit the "giving, selling, distributing or receiving" of trading stamps, this provision to take effect after the 1st of January, 1902. Another amendment empowers any (or two or more) municipalities to arrange with the National Sanitorium Association for the establishment and maintenance within such municipality or group, by the Association, of a sanitorium for consumptives, the powers of the municipalities in such cases being defined by the Sanitorium Act of 1900, and all plans, buildings etc., shall be subject to the conditions imposed by the Act. The self-governing powers of municipalities were extended by amendments permitting the passage of by-laws to regulate matters of local concern.

In addition to the Acts enumerated there were Acts passed respecting Insur-

ance Companies, respecting Upper Canada College—exempting its property from taxation and expropriation—and an Act was passed providing for the incorporation of towns, in territorial districts. Besides the general Acts dealt with, Acts which affect the Province generally, there were passed about 70 private Acts for the convenience of municipalities, and others to enable them to effect improvements, maintain their progress and to serve the interests of their citizens.

Extension of the Parliamentary Term.

About the end of March, 1902, the present Parliament will cease to exist by effluxion of time. As the House is generally in session at that time of the year, an Act was passed last session extending the duration of the present Parliament in order to permit, if necessary, of the work of the session being completed before expiration of the legislative term. Therefore by the Act referred to the life of the present Parliament may be extended, but not beyond fifteen days after the conclusion of the term of Parliament. It does not necessarily follow that, because of the passage of the Act the duration of the Legislature will be prolonged; but it extends the time, if additional time is required, to complete the public business before the House adjourns. The necessity of extending the Session will largely depend upon the course of the Opposition in expediting or retarding public business. There is no good reason if the House is convened at the usual time, why, under normal conditions, the work should not be completed before the Parliament ends by effluxion of time. The Act in question simply makes provision that, if the necessity arises, the session will not be allowed to close automatically, with perhaps important public business uncompleted. An attempt is made by the Opposition to magnify the gravity of the Act, and to unduly insist upon its enactment as an unconstitutional proceeding, but this is a mere assertion of the Opposition right to criticize. There is no ground for alarm. If the Act is not taken advantage of no harm will be done; and the Act will not be used to prolong the life of Parliament for a few days, unless the public interests can be served by so doing. No one desires to have a general election held at a season of the year when the roads are likely to be in an almost impassable condition, and as they are certain to be in some parts of the Province. In a word, though authority is given to extend the time, it need not be exercised if the Opposition facilitate as far as possible the transaction of the business of the Session.

General Results.

In addition to the Legislative action I have referred to, the Session has disclosed much which bears upon the part the Government has taken in promoting the public interests. Many of the reports pre-

sented give interesting information. The annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College shows that the year it deals with was a most prosperous one. There were enrolled last year 250 regular students and 24 students in the special dairy course, all being admirably trained in the special knowledge which has contributed so much to placing the Province in the admirable position it holds in dairying and agriculture, creditable alike to the fostering care of the Government and to the intelligence and enterprise of our farming classes. Not only by the college and the encouragement to collateral institutions, the Dairy School, etc., does the Government seek to help the farmer, and the Cold Storage legislation of last session as well as the Beet Root Sugar legislation of this session, but the Government went as far as it had the power to do, by procuring the adoption of a memorial to the British Government setting forth the excellent quality of the horses for army remounts this Province could produce, and urging the establishment in Ontario of a remount station which would encourage the farmers to produce the best quality of horses. (Applause.) It is the aim of the Government to use the people's money to advance the interests of the people. The estimates for next year contain a sum of \$34,000 for improving the buildings of the Agricultural College, and the splendid gift of \$45,000 by the Massey estate will be expended in extending facilities, providing a library and laboratory and room will be provided for 60 or 80 additional students for whom it is much needed.

Other Matters of Moment.

The report respecting Asylums shows the total population as 5,152, the great majority of whom are cared for at the expense of the Province to the relief, in a financial sense, of the municipalities from which they come, and this year the Victoria Asylum for Women, at Cobourg, has been fitted up or rather is being fitted up for the accommodation of from 175 to 180 senile patients, at a cost of about \$75,000, and will be ready for occupancy in September. The conversion of the buildings of the Penetanguishene Reformatory for Boys into an asylum for insane criminals, and its removal to Oxford County, where new buildings are to be erected, will not only afford needed asylum accommodation, but will also afford Reformatory boys an opportunity for learning farming where the soil is more suitable and prepare them for occupying land in the newer parts of the Province. The Government's foresight in appointing a Provincial Auditor was fully justified by the information contained in a return presented the last Session. This showed that during the year 1900 no losses to municipalities occurred through improper keeping of accounts or irregularities of Treasurers, a condition in striking con-

trast to the year 1897—the year of the Auditor's appointment—when the losses from these and similar causes amounted to \$100,000. The first report of the Assessment Commission was brought down and, with the full report, will form the basis of complete legislation upon this difficult and important subject. The report of the exploration parties which investigated the resources of northern Ontario last summer was not presented in printed form, but \$4,000 was appropriated for printing the report which will be a great revelation to the people of the immense agricultural and mineral resources of New Ontario which it is the settled policy of the Government to utilize with the greatest possible energy. This new territory will be a great source of revenue, but the greatest need of this province is perhaps not revenue. Our finances are in a healthy condition and we have sufficient Provincial income for making reasonable demands upon our financial resources for the administration of the ordinary affairs of the Province.

What We Need.

What we need and what the people of the Province expect and what they will not expect in vain from the present Liberal Government is an energetic development of our natural resources which will give new life to the commercial and industrial interests of the Province, which will attract capital, which will create wealth and employ labour; and to this end the Government addresses its best energies and, as has been shown, with the greatest success, but the success that has been achieved is only a modest measure of the great results that will come from the Government's aggressive and go-ahead policy. (applause) This policy commends itself to the people of the country but it does not, unfortunately, receive the support it should do from the Opposition. The Conservative Leader, Mr. Whitney, instead of patriotically joining hands with the Government in a patriotic endeavour to advance the public welfare, denounces, and Mr. Matheson joins him in denouncing, the progressive policy of the Government, preferring rather to hash and re-hash political scandals and ignoring the large share his party had had in the political irregularities he so hypocritically condemned. There is no fault to be found with condemning political impurity in the abstract wherever it is practised, but for the leader of the Conservative party to pose as a purist and make a policy of this one-sided course is absurd to say the least of it, and, joined to his blind opposition to an advance policy for the Province, this course alone unfits him for the wise control of the affairs of the Province to which he aspires. If Drake and Hawkins and Frobisher had contented their patriotism and enterprise by talking "scandal about Queen Elizabeth", they never would have made the great voyages of discovery which

resulted in making Great Britain the mistress of the seas and the greatest commercial and civilizing force in the world. Mr. Whitney will never work his way to power by talking political scandal. He mistakes the temper of the people of the country. They do not and never will sympathise with stagnation. (applause.)

Has The Confidence of the Country.

on. Mr. Ross (and his colleagues and followers are in hearty sympathy with him) aims higher. He and the Government realize that we have a Province of magnificent resources and they also recognize that we must have a policy of development worthy of these resources. The Government has faith in the country, and confidence in the energy, enterprise and ambition of the people of the Province who reciprocate this confidence and will support the Government in the carrying out of a policy which, while it insures good Government and efficient administration of current affairs and proper care of established interests, is energetically directed to the development of our unlimited natural resources, to the creation of new centres of population and of manufacturing and commercial enterprise, which will react on Older Ontario sending an impulse of new life through every avenue and department of its agricultural industrial and commercial activities. (Applause.) The Ross Government has done well for Ontario; it is doing well for Ontario and will continue to do well for

Ontario, for no Government on the eve of an appeal to the people ever stood so high in the public confidence, no Government ever presented so strong claims to the renewal of the trust which they have discharged with so much wisdom, energy and ample regard for both the present and future interests of one of the fairest countries the sun shines on. (Long continued applause.)

At the conclusion of Mr. Stratton's address, Mr. Thos. Dodds, in moving, seconded by Mr. Wm. Rutherford, a vote of thanks which was heartily carried, referred to the wonderful progress of settlement in the Rainy River District, from which he had recently received a letter from his son, stating that the surveyed areas were filling up so rapidly that there was need for the survey of two or three more townships.

Mr. Geo. M. Roger, barrister, who was present, spoke of the great information Hon. Mr. Stratton's address had given him respecting the tremendous capabilities of New Ontario, whose extent and value had never been so fully impressed upon his mind as it had been that evening. The people of Ontario had a fortune in the new territory, and it was a great thing that a Liberal Government had successfully withstood the effort of the Conservative Government to deprive us of this great region, and had preserved it to Ontario, as the foundation of future greatness and prosperity.

The meeting closed with cheers for Hon. Mr. Stratton, the Ross Government and the King.

